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Attention is drawn to the loan collection of etchings and lithographs by **James McNeill Whistler**, which is arranged in the Print Rooms on the second floor. The Museum is able to make this exhibition, owing to the kindness of Mrs. John L. Gardner, George P. Gardner, Denman W. Ross and Francis Bullard, who have lent examples from their series.

The loan collection of portraits by John Singer Sargent lasted from June 12 until August 30. In rearranging the galleries since that date prominence has been given in the First Gallery to **Rogier Van der Weyden's** picture, **St. Luke drawing the Portrait of the Madonna**. Since this picture was last exhibited, large patches of repainting have been removed. The most conspicuous blank spaces thus revealed have been colored in a way to present an even tone without imitating the ancient appearance.

The New Museum Building.

As inquiries upon the subject are constantly received, it may be well to state here the present position of affairs with regard to the new building. The land for it was purchased by the Trustees in December, 1899, and consists of about twelve acres, over eleven of which are available for building purposes. This land is bounded on the south by Huntington Avenue, on the north and east by the Back Bay Park (the eastern boundary being what is now known as the "Huntington Entrance" to the Park), and on the west by a proposed street, fifty feet wide, near and parallel to Ruggles Street. It is thus in the heart of the region which is being selected for the sites of a number of public buildings and institutions. The land on which the Museum now stands was sold to a syndicate on April 22, 1902, upon terms which will permit the Trustees to retain possession of the present building until June 20, 1909, or to release it earlier if they desire. Further details of the terms of both purchase and sale will be found in the Annual Reports of the Executive Committee for 1899 and 1902.

A Building Committee was appointed by the Trustees last year and began its work at once. This committee has proceeded upon the principle that the true way to design a museum is from the inside out, by considering first of all the needs and requirements of its several departments as regards lighting, arrangement, and facility of study, taking each department separately and developing it as a unit; then ascertaining how these units can be most practically and effectively combined, letting the building take such shape as may result from this combination; and leaving the treatment of the exterior and the style to be adopted for its façades, to be studied last of all. For the proper development of this work two measures were found necessary and have been adopted. The head of each department of the Museum has been asked to prepare a careful report, stating in detail the needs of his department, present and as far as possible prospective,

in the matters of space and light, for purposes of exhibition, storage, and study; and two architects have been employed—one as principal, the other as consulting architect—to assist in the preparation of these reports, to put the material thus gathered into concrete form, to study the possibilities of the new site with respect thereto, and to work out a possible solution of the building problem.

It is to be remembered that all this is regarded as the initial stage in the planning of the new Museum, and it is only after the data here suggested shall have been acquired that the Committee will determine how it is to secure the ultimate design of the building. For the work above described the services of R. Clipston Sturgis have been engaged by the Committee as architect, and of Edmund M. Wheelwright as consulting architect, both being paid a salary by the Museum.

The reports referred to have been handed in by all departments, though the recommendations they contain are naturally still subject to revision, and both architects are now occupied in putting into shape the material brought together in this manner. The progress made thus far is regarded as satisfactory by the Building Committee, but it is too soon to speak of what has been accomplished in detail, as matters are yet in far from final shape. For the purpose of experimenting on the actual site of the building with different methods of lighting works of art, a temporary structure has been erected on the new land, so designed that every variety of side and top light may be tested in it. At the time of writing, this building is not quite ready for the experiments.

The Egyptian Department.

The acknowledgments of the Museum are due to the Egypt Exploration Fund, of London, for its liberal allotment of the results of its last season's campaign in Egypt. These are, as usual, a gift from the Fund, in return for the subscriptions received through its Boston office, and include this year a number of important objects from tombs of the first six dynasties at Abydos, and others of later periods from various sites.

Unfortunately the crowded condition of the Egyptian Department prevents the display at present of all its new accessions, but it is hoped that at least a temporary exhibition of the more interesting may be arranged during the autumn. Among these are two gifts from Theodore M. Davis, of Newport, which are of unique interest and value. One is a part of the costume of a high dignitary of the eighteenth dynasty, whose tomb was discovered while Mr. Davis's men were clearing the approach to the tomb of Thothmes IV, which was excavated by him last winter. The garment, if such it may be called, has somewhat the shape of a chasuble or a large apron, and is made of very thin gazelle-skin, which is still as soft and flexible as an undressed kid glove. With the exception of a border around the edge and an oblong panel on the breast, the whole surface is cut into a fine network, the meshes of which are scarcely larger than threads, yet are cut with absolute precision. This is a remarkable example of delicate and beautiful leather-cutting. With it is the wooden box in which it was found, painted yellow and inscribed with hieroglyphs in blue.

Mr. Davis's other gift consists of fifty-four objects from the tomb of Thothmes IV. Aside from their intrinsic interest, these will have an especial value for our collection, because under the present Egyptian laws objects found in the royal tombs are rarely permitted to leave the country. Among them are forty-five pieces of pottery, each covered with a brilliant blue glaze and decorated in black with the royal cartouche and other devices, seven specimens of wood-carving, and two canopic jars of limestone.